

## CHAPTER

### XII. 1808.

Departure of the Prince of Ponte-Corvo Prediction and superstition — Stoppage of letters addressed to the Spanish troops— La Romana and Roinanillos — Illegible notation — Kugenuss of the (Jennan Princrn to join the Confederation of the Rhine ••- Attack upon me on account of M. Hue — Bernadotte's successor in Hamburg • - Exaction\*} and tyrannical conduct of General Dumas • Disturbance in Hamburg— Plates broken in a fit of rage — My letter to H— His reply — Bernadotte's return to Hamburg, and departure of Dumas for Lubeck — Noble conduct of the *aide de camp* Barral.

IN the spring of 1808 a circumstance occurred which gave me much uneasiness; it was the departure of Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte-Corvo, who received orders to repair to Copenhagen.<sup>1</sup> He left Hamburg on the 10th of March, as he wanted to reach his destination on the 14th of the same month. The Danish *chawjv* (*Vtjfdh'cn*) also received orders to join the Emperor, and discharge the functions of King's Commissioner. It was during his government at Hamburg and his stay in Jutland that Bernadotte unconsciously paved his way to the throne of Sweden. I recollect that he had also his presages and his predestinations. In short, he believed in astrology, and I shall never forget the serious tone in which he one day said to me, "Would you believe, my dear friend, that it was predicted at Paris that I should be a King, but that I must cross the sea to reach my throne ?" I could not help smiling with him at this weakness of mind, from which Bonaparte was not far removed. It certainly was not any supernatural influence which elevated Bernadotte to sovereign rank. His elevation was solely due, to his excellent character. He had no other

<sup>1</sup> He was directed to take the Emperor's army into Denmark after the battle of Austerlitz.

or not, I should have said that he was a King, but that I must cross the sea to reach my throne. If we had not secured the peace, he would have been for the war. — *Ktiti? of dition.*